

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A pressure-pulse-wave detecting probe for detecting a pressure pulse wave generated by an artery of a living subject, comprising:  
a sensor portion which has at least one pressure detecting element and a press surface that is to be positioned manually by an operator, relative to the artery of the subject, and is to be pressed manually by the operator, against the artery of the subject via a body surface of the subject, such that the pressure pulse wave is detected by said at least one pressure detecting element which is arranged on said press surface; and  
an indicator which is provided to be integral with said sensor portion, and provides an indication as to whether a value of pressure detected by each of said at least one pressure detecting element is suitable for detection of the pressure pulse wave or not.
2. A pressure-pulse-wave detecting probe according to claim 1, wherein said indicator provides said indication, by representing whether the detected value of pressure has reached a predetermined threshold or not.
3. A pressure-pulse-wave detecting probe according to claim 1, further comprising a handle portion which is provided to be integral with said sensor portion, and which is to be held by the operator during the detection of the pressure pulse wave, so that a position of said press surface relative to the artery and a pressing force applied to the artery can be adjusted manually by the operator, in accordance with said indication provided by said indicator.
4. A pressure-pulse-wave detecting probe according to claim 1,  
wherein said at least one pressure detecting element consists of a plurality of pressure detecting elements which are arranged in a row on said press surface,  
wherein said indicator has a plurality of indicating portions one of which indicates whether the value of pressure detected by one of said plurality of pressure detecting elements is suitable for the detection of the

pressure pulse wave or not, and another of which indicates whether the value of pressure detected by another of said plurality of pressure detecting elements is suitable for the detection of the pressure pulse wave or not, and wherein said one of said plurality of indicating portions and said another of said plurality of indicating portions are arranged in a direction parallel with said row in which said plurality of pressure detecting elements are arranged.

5. A pressure-pulse-wave detecting probe according to claim 4,

wherein each of said plurality of indication portions of said indicator has a plurality of light emitters each of which emits a light when activated,

and wherein a number of activated ones of said plurality of light emitters of each of said plurality of indication portions is increased with an increase in the value of pressure detected by a corresponding one of said plurality of pressure detecting elements.

6. A pressure-pulse-wave detecting probe according to claim 1,

wherein said at least one pressure detecting element consists of a plurality of pressure detecting elements which are arranged in a plurality of rows on said press surface,

wherein said indicator has a plurality of indicating portions which are arranged on a plane parallel to said press surface such that said plurality of indicating portions are positioned in respective positions corresponding to those of said plurality of pressure detecting elements,

and wherein each of said plurality of indicating portions indicates whether the value of pressure detected by a corresponding one of said plurality of pressure detecting elements is suitable for the detection of the pressure pulse wave or not.

7. A pressure-pulse-wave detecting probe according to claim 6, wherein each of said plurality of indicating portions emits a light having a color which varies depending upon whether the value of pressure detected by the corresponding one of said plurality of pressure detecting

elements is suitable for the detection of the pressure pulse wave or not.

8. A pressure-pulse-wave detecting probe according to claim 6, wherein said plurality of pressure detecting elements are arranged in a lattice on said press surface, and said plurality of indicating portions are arranged in a lattice on said plane.